THE HOLOTYPE AND ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF *POGONA HENRYLAWSONI* WELLS & WELLINGTON, 1985. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum 38(2):574 1995*:- Two names have been proposed for a species of bearded dragon (*Pogona*) from black-soil plains, central and western Queensland. *Pogona henrylawsoni* Wells & Wellington 1985 was described from a single specimen with field sightings and one other specimen (QMJ1051) also cited. Description of the holotype was based on metric and coloration data, with limited diagnostic comparisons. Witten (1994a) claimed that the holotype could not be found among specimens in the Australian Museum(AM), citing a personal communication by R. Sadlier noting the lost holotype. Witten further claimed that the diagnosis was inadequate to differentiate *P. henrylawsoni* from the sympatric *P. vitticeps* (Ahl, 1926), nominated as neotype for *P. henrylawsoni* a specimen of *P. vitticeps* (AMR143896), and described the "*P. henrylawsoni*" as *Pogona brevis*. The description of *Pogona brevis* was largely of scalation, although metric characters (short tail and limbs) were noted from Witten (1994b).

Witten's actions were invalid for two reasons. Wells & Wellington (1985) compared *P. henrylawsoni* to *P. vitticeps*, although one of the claimed diagnostic characters, smooth ventral scales, was shown to be unreliable (Witten, 1994a). Wells & Wellington also noted the small size, short tail and rounded head of their species. The holotype of *P. henrylawsoni*, an ovigerous female, (SVL 130mm), (Wells & Wellington, 1985) is smaller than the minimum mature size for populations of *P. vitticeps* outside Victoria (Witten & Coventry, 1990). A rounded head and short tail were also reported as diagnostic for *P. brevis* (Witten, 1994a). Secondly, the holotype of *P. henrylawsoni* has been in the Australian Museum collection since 1985. The holotype (AMR116984; AM Field No. 16814) was registered on 6.ix.1985, along with other Wells & Wellington types. Witten misinterpreted a letter from R. Sadlier, which noted two other specimens of *P. henrylawsoni* had not been lodged in the collection, but did not mention the holotype (R. Sadlier, pers. comm.).

The holotype of *P. henrylawsoni* (Fig. 1) matches the description of *P. brevis*. Wells & Wellington (1985) did not report on scalation described by Witten (1994a). The holotype has 14 supralabials, 15 infralabials, 5 prenasals, 5 subnasals, 13 internasals, 17 scales between rostral and parietal, 105 midbody scales, 17L/18R subdigital lamellae and 4L/4R femoral + preanal pores. Witten (1994a) reported that the tail length given by Wells and Wellington (1985) was shorter than in the series he examined. I confirm the short tail of the holotype; I measure SVL=126mm and tail length=116mm.

Under the ICZN, existence of both a neotype and holotype for *P. henrylawsoni* requires formal resolution. Application for a ruling is in preparation (Witten, pers. comm.). *P. henrylawsoni* is in common usage (Greer, 1989; de Vosjoli & Mailloux, 1993). Thus stability is served by suppression of the neotype, and retention of *P. henrylawsoni* in its original application.

Details of distribution and ecology of *P. henrylawsoni* are few. Five additional specimens are reported: AMR143864, 5.8km W Landsborough Hwy on Boulia rd, R. Sadlier & G. Shea 3.iv.1994; R144528, 35km by rd S Winton, W. van Devender 23.i.1994; Northern Territory Museum R 11415, 19km W. Winton, P. Horner 19.i.1984; R11416, 25km W. Winton, P. Horner 19.i.1984; QMJ57178, S. of Beryl Stn, 80km E. Winton, A. Emmott 9.iii.1993. Locality data for QMJ38760-62 (Witten, 1994a) are incomplete. These records are from 81.8km N Muttaburra on Hughenden rd, 54.2km S Hughenden on Muttaburra rd and 21.4km N Hughenden on Hann Hwy respectively. Distribution of this species thus extends from Gregory Downs to Longreach and Aramac. AMR144528 (SVL= 120mm) and QMJ57178 (SVL= 117mm) are ovigerous females with 5 and 9 eggs. Ovigerous females have previously been reported in January (Wells & Wellington, 1985), northern hemisphere captives have oviposited mostly between March and June (de Vosjoli & Mailloux, 1993). AMR143864 regurgitated by the elapid *Pseudechis collemi*; is the first record of predation for the species.

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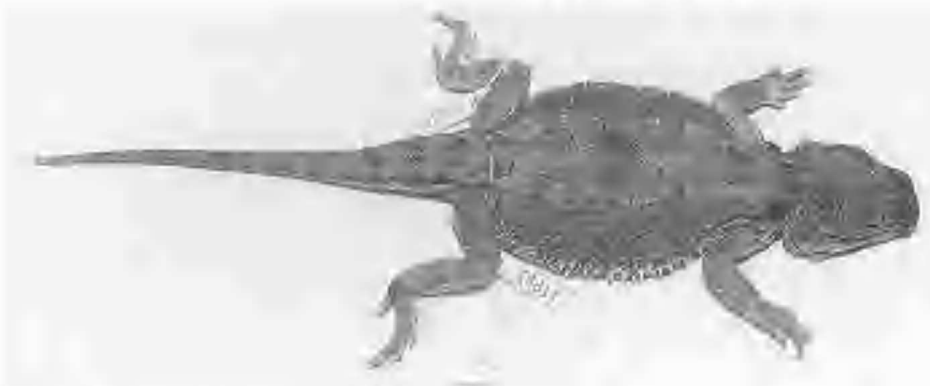

FIG. 1. Holotype of *Pogona henrylawsoni*.